



STATE SENATOR
PATTY BIRKHOLZ
FROM LANSING TO THE LAKE
24th Senate District E-Mail Newsletter

March 17, 2005

Aquatic Nuisance Species Legislation Introduced Today

Today, I introduced legislation (SB 332) that will require the Department of Environmental Quality to create a coalition of Great Lakes states to forge a coordinated basin-wide program to end the discharges of ballast water from ocean going vessels containing aquatic nuisance species. This bill allows Michigan along with the other Great Lakes states to develop common water pollution standards to regulate ballast water, establish a funding source to support this program and clarifies that biological pollutants are in fact a prohibited substance under Michigan's water pollution laws.

For further information on the bill, please go to www.michiganlegislature.gov, look under: Legislators-Sponsors-Birkholz and scroll to the bottom of the list.

Department Name Change

The Family Independence Agency has a new name. It will now be known as the Department of Human Services. The department was renamed by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, and the name change went into effect on March 15. The Department is responsible for public assistance programs, adoption, licensing of day care facilities and many other services. You can visit the Department of Human Services online at <http://www.michigan.gov/dhs>.

Fun Fact: Niles, Michigan is the "City of Four Flags." It is the only city in Michigan to have been under the flags of France, Great Britain, Spain and the United States.

March/April Office Hours

Thursday, March 24	4:00 p.m.	Delta Township Hall
Monday, March 28	9:00 a.m.	Fillmore Township Hall
Monday, March 28	2:00 p.m.	Allegan City Hall
Monday, April 11	9:30 a.m.	Hastings City Hall
Thursday, April 21	4:00 p.m.	Charlotte City Hall
Monday, April 25	9:00 a.m.	Fillmore Township Hall
Monday, April 25	2:00 p.m.	Allegan City Hall
Thursday, April 28	4:00 p.m.	Delta Township Hall

Contacts

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